

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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----- 038259

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T STATE 189351

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, EAID, LA

SUBJECT: FY 75 MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 6250

1. DEPT OF STATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVIEW STEERING GROUP (SAPRC) HAS HELD A PRELIMINARY WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE FY 75 MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LAOS TRANSMITTED BY REF.

2. AMONG CONCERNS RAISED AT THE MEETING WAS APPARENT UNDERESTIMATE OF COSTS OF PROGRAM WHICH WOULD HOLD MORE THAN 50,000 PERSONNEL IN ARMED FORCES DURING BULK OF FY 75. WAS THE INTENT TO SHIFT THOSE COSTS FROM MASF OR MAP TO THE RLG NATIONAL BUDGET IN FY 75? IF SO, THE FEELING HERE IS

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THAT SUCH A SHIFT PUTS PRESSURE ON STABILIZATION AND

EVENTUALLY IS REFLECTED IN ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEMAND, MAJOR COST OF WHICH MOST LIKELY WOULD BE BORNE BY US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR LAOS. (FYI: WE MADE FOLLOWING CALCULATIONS TO GET ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE PROBLEM: GIVEN STRAIGHT LINE PROJECTION OF MANPOWER REDUCTION FROM 80,000 MAN CURRENT STRENGTH TO 50,000 BY END OF FY 75, APPROXIMATE AVERAGE STRENGTH DURING FY 75 WOULD BE 60,000 MEN. WE HAVE EXTRAPOLATED ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COSTS FOR THIS FIGURE AS AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 7 MILLION BROKEN OUT AS FOLLOWS: PERSONNEL COSTS DOLS 4 MILLION, HUMAN SUBSISTANCE DOLS 2 MILLION,

SHARED MEDICAL EXPENSES DOLS 1 MILLION. END FYI)
IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR BEST INFORMATION AS TO CONCEPT AND WHATEVER DETAIL IS AVAILABLE REGARDING A FAR DEMOBILIZATION PROGRAM TO ACCOMPLISH THIS REDUCTION.

3. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY BURDEN OF UP TO DOLS 2 MILLION TO COVER THE COST, PREVIOUSLY MASF-FUNDED, OF DIRECT SUBSISTENCE FOR FAR/FAN TROOPS IN INACCESSIBLE AREAS. WE COULD NOT DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS INCLUDED IN DOLS 73 MILLION BUDGET PROVIDED REFTEL.

4. WHAT ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF COSTS OF SUPPORT DEPENDENTS OF "FORMER LIF" VETERANS UNDER A DEMOBILIZATION PROGRAM EITHER IN THE MAP PLAN OR ELSEWHERE?

5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE WHATEVER NEW INSIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE GAINED FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL REGARDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND THE PROTOCOL. (FYI: DAO'S POM SUBMISSION HAS NOT YET ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON. END FYI).

6. A BASIC QUESTION UNDERLYING THOSE ABOVE IS THE RELATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUDGET AND THE FY 75 LAOS FIELD SUBMISSION FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. ESSENTIALLY WHAT ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THAT SUBMISSION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PLAN?

7. WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE YOUR REVIEW ARRIVE IN
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WASHINGTON NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 28. KISSINGER

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